Applicant: Kathleen A. Donovan, et al. Attorney's Docket No.: 07039-260001 / MMV-00167

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In the claims:

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 15 and 28-35 were pending in the application. In the office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 15 and 28-35.

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1-2. (Cancelled)
- 3. (Cancelled)
- 4. (Previously amended) A method of quantitating IL-6 monitoring the status of a multiple myeloma-related plasmaproliferative disorder in an individual, said method comprising:
- (a) providing a first bone marrow preparation from an <u>said</u> individual diagnosed with a multiple myeloma-related plasmaproliferative disorder and a second bone marrow preparation from a normal individual; and
- (b) quantitating the amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said first bone marrow preparation and the amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said second bone marrow preparations, wherein progression to multiple myeloma is indicated if said amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said first bone marrow preparation is greater than said amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said second bone marrow preparation, and wherein progression to multiple myeloma is not indicated if said amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said first bone marrow preparation is less than or similar to said amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said second bone marrow preparation.
- 5. (Previously amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said multiple myelomarelated plasmaproliferative disorder is smoldering multiple myeloma.
 - 6-7. (Cancelled)
 - 8. (Previously amended) The method of any one of claims 1, 2, 4, or 5, 4, wherein

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said first bone marrow preparation is selected from the group consisting of a fresh supernatant from cultured bone marrow cells, a previously frozen supernatant from cultured bone marrow cells and a mononuclear cell preparation purified from bone marrow from said individual diagnosed with a multiple myeloma-related plasmaproliferative disorder.

9-14. (Cancelled)

- (Previously amended) A method of monitoring the status of multiple myeloma in 15. an individual, said method comprising:
- obtaining an earlier bone marrow preparation and a later bone marrow preparation a) from said individual, said individual undergoing treatment for multiple myeloma, at least one of said bone marrow preparations obtained after initiation of said treatment; and
- determining the amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said b) earlier bone marrow preparation and determining the amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said later bone marrow preparation, wherein progression of said multiple myeloma status is indicated if said amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said later bone marrow preparation is greater than said amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said earlier bone marrow preparation, wherein improvement of said multiple myeloma status is indicated if said amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said later bone marrow preparation is less than said amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said earlier bone marrow preparation, and wherein stability of said multiple myeloma status is indicated if said amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said later bone marrow preparation is similar to said amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said earlier bone marrow preparation.

16-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously added) The method of claim 4, wherein said multiple myelomarelated plasmaproliferative disorder is indolent multiple myeloma.

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31. (Previously added) The method of claim 4, wherein said multiple myelomarelated plasmaproliferative disorder is monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance.

- 32. (Previously added) A method of quantitating IL 6 monitoring the status of a multiple myeloma-related plasmaproliferative disorder in an individual, said method comprising:
- (a) providing a bone marrow preparation from an said individual diagnosed with a multiple myeloma-related plasmaproliferative disorder; and
- (b) quantitating the amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with said bone marrow preparation, wherein progression to multiple myeloma is indicated if said amount of IL-6 produced by said stromal cells is greater than the amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured in the presence with a standard amount of 1 pg/ml IL-1β, and wherein progression to multiple myeloma is not indicated if said amount of IL-6 produced by said stromal cells is less than or similar to the same as the amount of IL-6 produced by stromal cells cultured with a standard amount in the presence of 1pg/ml IL-1β.
- 33. (Previously added) The method of claim 32, wherein said multiple myelomarelated plasmaproliferative disorder is smoldering multiple myeloma.
- 34. (Previously added) The method of claim 32, wherein said multiple myelomarelated plasmaproliferative disorder is indolent multiple myeloma.
- 35. (Previously added) The method of claim 32, wherein said multiple myelomarelated plasmaproliferative disorder is monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance.
- 36. (New) The method of claim 4, wherein said first bone marrow preparation is a previously frozen supernatant from cultured bone marrow cells from said individual diagnosed with a multiple myeloma-related plasmaproliferative disorder.
- 37. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein said later bone marrow preparation is a fresh supernatant from cultured bone marrow cells from said individual.

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38. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein said later bone marrow preparation is a previously frozen supernatant from cultured bone marrow cells from said individual.

- 39. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein said bone marrow preparation is a fresh supernatant from cultured bone marrow cells from said individual.
- 40. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein said bone marrow preparation is a previously frozen supernatant from cultured bone marrow cells from said individual.